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(b) if so, whether he will place them on the table of the House;

(c) whether contributions were being paid to local bodies and municipal councils before the passing of the Madras Elementary Education Act;

(d) if so, on what principles those contributions were based; and

(e) whether he will be pleased to place on the table of the House a statement giving details of grants hitherto paid to local bodies and municipalities under section 37 of the Madras Elementary Education Act?

*A.*—(*a*) & (*b*) No rules have been framed. Each case is considered on its merits.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Subsidies for elementary education were paid with reference to the needs of individual local bodies and their financial condition.

(*e*) The contribution payable from Provincial funds under section 37 of the Elementary Education Act in respect of the education tax collected by a local body varies from year to year with reference to the proceeds of the tax. The Government contribution payable in respect of the tax collected in a year is paid in the next year. A statement[a] showing the amounts paid in 1926–27 and another statement[a] showing the annual contribution payable to the local boards and municipalities under the proviso to section 37 are placed on the table.

## Libraries

*Annual grants to the Connemara Library for the purchase of books.*

*1303 *Q.*—Mr. Basheer Ahmad Sayeed: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the annual grant sanctioned for the Connemara Public Library for the purchase of books for each of the last five years; and

(*b*) the total number of books purchased for the Connemara Public Library from year to year as compared with the Madras University Library during the past ten years?

*A.*—(*a*) The amount spent on the purchase of books and periodicals for the Connemara Public Library during each of the last five years is given below:—

| Year. | Amount. |
|---|---|
| | RS. |
| 1922–23 | 3,000 |
| 1923–24 | 3,000 |
| 1924–25 | 3,000 |
| 1925–26 | 4,666 |
| 1926–27 | 5,137 |

[a] Printed as Appendix III on pages 97–100 infra.

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(b) The number of books purchased for the Connemara Public Library during each of the last ten years is given below :—

| Year. | | | | | Number of books purchased. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1917–18 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 615 |
| 1918–19 | .. | ... | ... | ... | 344 |
| 1919–20 | ... | ... | .. | ... | 282 |
| 1920–21 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 189 |
| 1921–22 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 204 |
| 1922–23 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 207 |
| 1923–24 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 232 |
| 1924–25 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 259 |
| 1925–26 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 231 |
| 1926–27 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 241 |

The hon. Member may obtain particulars as to the number of books purchased for the Madras University Library from the Syndicate.

*Control and management of the Oriental Manuscripts Library.*

*1304 Q.—Mr. Basheer Ahmad Sayeed: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government propose to take early steps to transfer the control and the management of the Oriental Manuscripts Library to the University of Madras;

(b) whether it is a fact that a good number of the rare and valuable manuscripts in the said library are all heaped and thrown together in a room in an indiscriminate manner; and

(c) whether the Government propose to take necessary steps to locate the said library in a more spacious and safer building?

A.—(a) The question will be considered after the new University Library buildings are completed.

(b) No.

(c) There is at present no proposal to shift the library from its present habitation. If the University Library is removed from the premises of the Connemara Public Library, more space will become available for the Oriental Manuscripts Library.

## Local Boards

*Capsizing of the ferry boats conveying Roman Catholic pilgrims bound for Velanganni.*

*1305 Q.—Mr. S. Arpudaswami Udayar: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that some years ago the ferry boats conveying Roman Catholic pilgrims bound for Velanganni across a river at Negapatam capsized with the result that some pilgrims lost their lives;

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, when this incident occurred and what was the extent of the loss to human lives;